Pruning of Central Services

504. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Union Public Service Commission has been asked to reassess the strength of various Central Services in keeping with Government's endeavour to prune the Services and to reduce the expenditure: and

(b) if so, whether Union Public Service Commission has since submitted its report, if so, the details thereof indicating the extent of pruning to be conducted in each service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Leadership Abilities Required of an Administrator

505. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) how are the "leadership abilities" required of an administrator tested by the UPSC in the Civil Services Examination;

(b) the reasons for not adopting group task test like Committee exercise for testing these abilities;

(c) how does possession of remote information which is presently tested in this Examination contribute to testing the leadership avilities;

(d) what are the reasons that the Civil Service Examination over-emphasises testing information as though it alone matters; and

(e) if information alone is intelligence, what are the reasons for not having computers in places of Collectors as computers can store more information?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) The Scheme of the Civil Services Examination includes a personality test which is conducted by a Board constituted by the UPSC comprising competent and un-biased observers and headed by the Chairman/Member of the UPSC. The test is intended to judge *inter alia* the leadership and intellectual qualities of a candidate.

(b) The question of adoption of group task test has been considered but owing to practical difficulties such as standardisation, reliability, validity and norms for proper interpretation of test scores this had not been found feasible. Besides, such tests are likely to put rural candidates who are likely to be less articulate, at a dis-advantage.

(c) and (d) The present scheme of the Civil Services Examination introduced in 1979 on the basis of a Report submitted by a Committee set up by the UPSC and headed by Prof. D. S. Kothari, has been designed as a comprehensive method combining tests for the assessment of knowledge and intellectual and personal attributer of the candidates by an appropriate mix of academic and other components including the personality test. The examination is not intended to solely test the remote information possessed by the Candidate. The broad scheme of the examination has been subsequently endorsed by a Committee headed by Prof. Satish Chandra set up in 1988 to review the scheme.

(e) It is nobody's case, least of all that of the UPSC that information alone is intelligence and the Civil Services Examination Scheme is not based on this premises.

Norms for Grant of Special Casual Leave

506. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some norms exist for grant of special casual leave to Government Employees in Delhi when public means of transport are not available due to Mahabandh, Bandh, Strike and agitations;

(b) if so, what are the details of these norms: